May 6
1926

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

MILLENNIAL STAR

ESTABLISHED IN 1840

"I, the Lord, will forgive whom I will forgive, but of you it is required to forgive all men." DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS 64: 10.

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THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS*

PRESIDENT HEBER J. GRANT

THIS IS A VERY WONDERFUL GATHERING of Latter-day Saints, the Tabernacle being crowded to overflowing. It is certainly an inspiring sight, and bears witness to the interest and devotion of the Latter-day Saints. I humbly pray that while I stand before you this morning I may be able to say something that shall in some small degree fulfil my share of this conference, which you can take away with you and feel that you have received some benefit by leaving your homes, some of you from Canada on the north to Mexico on the south, and from New York to San Francisco.

I rejoice in the growth of the work of God. I rejoice in the integrity and devotion and the willing self-sacrifice of the people. I am very thankful for all of the many blessings that have come to us as a people, from the time when that great pioneer, Brigham Young, and that wonderful band of men and women, one hundred and forty odd, first came to this valley. I am very thankful for the blessings of the Lord that have attended the Saints, notwithstanding the drivings and the persecutions and the mobbings that they have had to endure during the ninety-six years since the organisation of the Church.

It is generally expected that at the April conference of the Church something shall be given in the nature of statistics regarding the condition of the Church. Therefore, before making any special remarks, I shall give you a few items of interest.

*Address delivered at the opening session of the Ninety-sixth Annual General Conference, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah, April 4, 1926.

CHANGES IN STAKE AND MISSION OFFICERS SINCE LAST OCTOBER CONFERENCE

Stake Presidents Honourably Released: Mark Austin, Fremont Stake; Peter M. Hansen (deceased), Bear River Stake; Nelson J. Hogan, Idaho Stake; Heber C. Anstin, Idaho Falls Stake.

New Stake Presidents: George S. Romney, Fremont Stake; Milton H. Welling, Bear River Stake; J. Fred Corbett, Idaho Stake; Frederick A. Caine, Idaho Falls Stake.

Mission Presidents Honourably Released: Albert R. Peterson, Norwegian Mission; John S. Hansen, Danish Mission; Charles S. Hyde, Netherlands Mission; Herbert B. Foulger, Tahitian Mission (acting).

Mission Presidents Appointed: Martin Christopherson, Norwegian Mission; Joseph L. Peterson, Danish Mission; John P. Lillywhite, Netherlands Mission; Alma G. Burton, Tahitian Mission.

MISCELLANEOUS STATISTICS

There are at present: Stakes of Zion, 94; wards, 909; independent branches, 76; missions, 26; branches in missions, 716. Making a total of 1,701 wards and branches now in the Church.

There were fewer than 20 Stakes of Zion at the time I was chosen to be one of the Twelve Apostles of the Church, forty-three years ago.

Since our conference in 1925, 69 stake and ward meeting houses have been erected and 24 buildings in our missions, which makes a total of 93 structures erected during the year.

We have not yet completed the Arizona Temple, but the expenditures up to the 31st of December, 1925, on that building were $540,000.

We rejoice in the wonderful growth of work in our temples. In the Salt Lake Temple, I learn from Brother George F. Richards, we have had as high as 1,800 people go through in a single day. Many companies go through there each day labouring for the salvation of their dead.

In our Church educational systems we have enrolled:

In Church Schools, 4,184.

In Seminaries, 10,341.

In Religion Classes, 57,000.

Total number receiving weekday religious education, 71,525.

This says nothing of religious education that is being given to 59,000 women in our female Relief Societies, 100,000 members in our Young Men's and Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Associations, and a quarter of a million in our Sunday Schools. And I am informed that the enrollment of our children in Primary Associations now reaches 100,000.

There were ordinances performed in the temples for the living and the dead last year numbering 986,321.

Number of people recommended to the temples, 55,695.

We have something over 2,500 missionaries in the field at the present time.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Following are the expenditures from the tithes of the Church for the year 1925:

Stake and Ward Purposes: There has been returned from the tithes to the stakes and wards for building construction, maintenance and operation, $1,486,351.81.

Education: Expended for the construction, maintenance and operation of Church Schools, $958,440.67.

Temples: Expended for the construction, maintenance and operation of Temples, $319,415.

Charities: For the care of the worthy poor and other charitable purposes, including hospital treatment, $172,352.74.

Missions: For the maintenance and operation of all the missions, and for the erection of places of worship and other buildings in the missions, $769,926.79.

Making a total which has been taken from the tithes and returned by the Trustee-in-Trust for the maintenance and operation of the stakes and wards, for the maintenance and operation of Church Schools and Temples, for charities and for mission activities, $3,706,397.01.

Other Charities: In addition to charities paid from the tithes, as before named, there have also been disbursed the fast offerings, other charities and assistance rendered by the Relief Society, in the sum of $442,868.07, which amount, added to the $172,352.74 paid from the tithes, makes the total charity assistance rendered by the Church, $615,220.81.

There has been collected by the various wards of the Church and paid to missionaries to assist in their maintenance, $131,941.31.

STATISTICS REGARDING THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH

Children blessed and entered on the records of the Church in the stakes and missions, 20,233.

Children baptised in the stakes and missions, 14,390.

Converts baptised and entered on the records of the stakes and missions, 6,373.

SOCIAL STATISTICS

Birth rate, 32 per thousand.

Marriage rate, 15 per thousand.

Death rate, 6.7 per thousand.

Divorces—There was one divorce in every 20 marriages. The average in the United States is one divorce for every seven marriages.

Families owning their own homes, 73 per cent.

OBEDIENCE TO LAW

There is at the present time an agitation going on in the United States against the enforcement of prohibition. Straw votes are being taken, which show that the overwhelming sentiment of those who have seen fit to vote on this straw ballot are in favour of the repeal or modification of the present law.

There is also a wave of crime sweeping over the country. Perhaps there is nothing of greater importance, next to our spiritual growth, than a determination on the part of the Latter-day Saints to observe the laws of our country. I wish to quote from the immortal Lincoln:

> Let every American, every lover of liberty, every well wisher to his posterity, swear by the blood of the revolution never to violate in the least particular the laws of the country, and never to tolerate their violation by others. As the patriots of '76 did to the support of the Declaration of Independence, so to the support of the Constitution and laws let every American pledge his life, his property and his sacred honour. Let every man remember that to violate the law is to trample on the blood of his father, and to tear the charter of his own and his children's liberty. Let reverence for the laws be breathed by every American mother to the lisping babe that prattles on her lap; let it be taught in schools, in seminaries, and in colleges; let it be written in primers, spelling books and almanacs; let it be preached from the pulpit, proclaimed in legislative halls, enforced in courts of justice. In short, let it become the political religion of the nation.

One of the Articles of our Faith declares that we believe in sustaining the law and supporting the rulers. So that not only should Latter-day Saints follow the advice of the immortal Lincoln, but they should follow the doctrines of the Church to which they belong.

Theodore Roosevelt had the following statements to make that would apply more or less to sustaining the law:

> In character we must have virtue, morality, decency and square dealing as the foundation.
>
> Any man who claims there can be liberty in spite of and against the law is claiming that anarchy is liberty.
>
> We need strong bodies; more than that, we need strong minds, and finally we need what counts for more than body or mind—character.
>
> The man who counts is the man who is decent and who makes himself felt as a force for decency.

THE WORD OF WISDOM

The Latter-day Saints have a revelation from God regarding strong bodies. In that revelation it is recorded that tobacco is not good for the body. It is also recorded there that strong drinks are not to be taken internally, but are only for the washing of the body. We are told in this same revelation that hot drinks are not good for man. This revelation was given to the Latter-

day Saints in 1833, only three years after the organisation of the Church. Yet there are many of the people who have never lived up to that revelation. But I am thankful that the great majority of the Latter-day Saints are observers of the Word of Wisdom—that tea, coffee, liquor and tobacco are let alone by the Latter-day Saints.

I have read to you that we have seventeen hundred wards and branches in the Church. In each of the wards of the Church there is a bishop and two counselors and a ward clerk, and in each of the independent branches there is a president and two counselors. There are sometimes three presiding officers in the branches throughout the missions, and sometimes only one. But we have an army of men presiding amounting to four or five thousand, and every one of these men must pledge his honour that he will observe the Word of Wisdom. We have now ninety-four stakes, with a presidency of three men, and a stake clerk, and we have twelve high councilors in all of these stakes. In addition we have many alternate high councilors. It will average, I am sure, twenty men to the stake. So we have an army of two thousand there, and every one of these leading men must obey the Word of Wisdom.

"LEAVE OUT L. D. S. COMMUNITIES"

I read recently in a paper published in our city: "The woman smoker is the prominent professional and business woman in every community." I desire to broadcast all over the world that that statement is an absolute falsehood so far as the Latter-day Saints are concerned. Never in my life have I seen a Latter-day Saint woman or girl smoking a cigarette. This article states that last year there were 9,000,000,000 cigarettes smoked by the women of these United States, and that there were 7,000,000,000 cigarettes smoked by women the year before, an increase in round numbers of thirty per cent. The writer said that "the woman smoker is the prominent professional and business woman in every community." I say: Leave out every Latter-day Saint community, because it is a falsehood.

"She is the wife of your local physician." She is not the wife of any physician in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints so far as I know. "She is the wife of the town banker, the attorney. She is the president of your parent-teacher club, your literary club." These statements are reputed to have been made by Cynthia Grey. I would not be a bit surprised if "Cynthia Grey" is a newspaper name, and that it is one of the tobacco trusts who furnished the article.

"In other words, it is stuff and nonsense nowadays to say that the women who smoke are scarlet ladies." We do not say that. So she has put that in to weaken the fight against this awful curse, cigarette smoking.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

"Does nicotine harm the woman any more than the man, if it harms either?" Nicotine harms every man, woman and child that uses tobacco, and we as Latter-day Saints have the word of the Lord God Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth, to that effect, this lady (or perhaps man) to the contrary notwithstanding.

"I am inclined to believe that even a woman smoker, quite firm in her conviction that she is doing the proper thing"—I do not believe that any woman smoker believes she is doing the proper thing—"would stop smoking if any real authority could prove she was harming any possible future child of hers." The trained athletes of the nation are pretty good authorities on the harm to the physical body, and they are practically a unit that tobacco and liquor do harm the body. Some of the great baseball clubs of America, who have won championships, won't allow liquor or tobacco to be used by their men. The head of the New York Athletic Club, one of the greatest in this country, announces that there is no prospect of success in the athletic line to the man who uses tobacco and liquor.

"But medical savants, when pushed to the wall, seem not much alarmed." When they are not pushed to the wall the great majority of them acknowledge the harmful influence of these things.

DOES NOT ADD STRENGTH

"The president of the Association of Railway Chief Surgeons is quoted as saying 'Fags help men work out problems. Why not women?'" A whip helps a horse to go a little bit farther, but it does not add strength to the horse, and no narcotic or stimulant that creates an appetite for itself is good for man or woman. And thank the Lord we have His word to that effect.

I will not take any more of your time reading from this article, for it is "rot." (Laughter).

I meant, after reading Lincoln's wonderful appeal to sustain the Constitution, to read the following. Gladstone said, speaking of the Constitution of the United States:

> It is the greatest document of its kind that ever sprang from the mind of man.

The faith of the Latter-day Saints and the teaching that I have had since I was a child at my mother's knee, as well as from this stand, is that the Constitution of our country was written by men inspired of the Lord God Almighty. Therefore we as Latter-day Saints, more than any other people, ought to be supporters of the Constitution, and all constitutional law.

I read a clipping from a great financial paper, as follows:

> "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall,"

is as true to-day as it was 2,500 years ago. The indications of surface conditions are not satisfactory. A crime wave is sweeping the country; hope is necessary to give a thrill in the movies; temperance and self-control have become a joke; observance and respect for law are considered old-fashioned; honest labour is looked upon as something to be avoided; too many are trying to get something for nothing and are going into debt for needless luxuries and harmful pleasures.

THE BURDEN OF DEBT

Right here let me warn the Latter-day Saints to buy automobiles and to buy the ordinary necessities of life when they have the money to buy them, and not to mortgage their future. I have heard of people over in England who regularly mortgage their Sunday clothes Monday morning and take them out of "hock" the next Saturday night. I want to say to you that those who discount their future, who run into debt for the ordinary necessities of life, are laying burdens upon themselves that will come back with compound interest to cause them great trouble and humiliation. To quote again:

> Nasty magazines are building up great circulations, while the colleges are closing up their chapels and opening up smoking rooms for the women students.

Again let me say that that can not be found in any of the Church schools or seminaries. Once more, please leave out the Latter-day Saints.

> I sincerely hope that these things are merely a phase, and that the American people are still a God-fearing race. If not, these things are a tremendous indictment of schools and colleges as well as parents. Yes, America has every material blessing at the present time and if we will keep our feet on the ground the present era of prosperity should continue for years. On the other hand, all wealth is a mere tool which can be used either to upbuild or to destroy. Everything depends on the motive, ambition and tastes of the people who have this tool in their hands.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

To ASSUME that a merely ethical or even a strictly moral course of conduct is all-sufficient for the soul's salvation would be to repudiate Scripture, deny the essential efficacy of the Atonement, dethrone the Christ, and eliminate God from earthly affairs. Such an assumption proclaims the stupendous error that mortal man is competent to save himself—on his own terms, and according to a standard established by human agency. Religion is more than a code of morals. Man can no more be saved by ethics than can he live by bread alone. The spiritual nutriment, without which no soul can develop to the exalted status of eternal life, consists of "every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."—J. E. T.

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR

THURSDAY, MAY 6, 1926

EDITORIAL

MY MOTHER

THE DAY especially set apart each year for me to pay solemn tribute to my Mother is here. At the very mention of that holy name, Mother, my bosom swells with feelings and memories that time can not tame nor the distant future quell. To give me my breath of life cost her anxiety and suffering known only to mothers; some say that mothers fairly catch a glimpse of immortality as they draw so near to the veil. She preserved this life within me in my childhood by tender nursing and diligent care. In my youth she was ever ready and always willing to help me—characteristics only becoming the divine nature of mothers. She understood me; she steadied me in my strength and counseled me in my weaknesses. As age shall creep o'er me, though my Mother depart to her heavenly reward—for so it shall be—I am sure that her influence will aid me to perform each task a little better, each duty a little fuller, each responsibility with more care; for by having watched her I have learned the ultimate value of so doing; she has set the example. And if I precede her to immortality may she be able to say that I was a dutiful son.

I restrict not these words to the first person possessive, nor limit their application alone to my Mother, but extend them to yours as well. We are not all mothers or fathers, but we are all children, and as such we may render praise and honour to those who made possible our lives, not forgetting father, but remembering notably on this occasion, Mother; and this occasion we call Mother's Day.

The designation of this day with its impressive observances is an American custom, having been inaugurated by Miss Anna Jarvis of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S.A., in 1908, and established by presidential proclamation as a day of tribute to mothers in the year 1914. The second Sunday in May was wisely chosen as the golden day for mothers. It comes in the midst of Springtime, the blessed vernal season when all nature is resplendent in the garb of parenthood. Birdlings weakly peep in the freshly-leafed treetops, and the mother-bird twitters a song of thanksgiving, happily cognizant of her new family; the bleating of young lambs from the emerald hillsides suggests motherhood in the animal kingdom; cheery voices of human children pierce the May air with shouts of joy—and Mother looks on and smiles.

It is altogether fitting that such a day be observed, but may I ask: Should we honour our mothers any more on this particular occasion than at other times? Is it but a day to don a coat of sham and make-believe? I say no! 'Tis a day to show our appreciation outwardly by special observances, but inwardly we should reverence and venerate our mothers every day and every hour of every day. Let it be said again that if we never do anything that we are not afraid to lend to the confidence of Mother we shall never stray far from the way of God.

The fifth commandment of the Decalogue from Sinai reads:

> Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

This command from on high is self-explanatory. Further, it is the only one of the ten with a promise attached.

Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints throughout the world observe Mother's Day; it is not enough that such a splendid occasion be but a national affair. Each individual member is taught the sacredness and exaltation of motherhood. Each strives to gain the blessing promised by the Lord in the the commandment.—JAMES K. KNUDSON.

NINETY-SIXTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

THE NINETY-SIXTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints opened in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah, Sunday, April 4th, with President Heber J. Grant presiding. A vast concourse of Saints from wards and stakes within the United States, Mexico and Canada and many from missions of the Church in other parts of the world crowded the huge auditorium to capacity and overflowed into the Assembly Hall and the Tabernacle grounds. Speech amplifiers and radio broadcasting apparatus enabled countless numbers to hear the proceedings outside the buildings. Telegrams and telephone messages were received from many telling that the words of the speakers and the inspirational music were clearly heard hundreds of miles away. All of the General Authorities of the Church were present with the exception of Elder Reed Smoot, who was held in Washington, by his duties as a Senator of the United States; Elder James E. Talmage, who was in England presiding over the European Missions; Elder Melvin J. Ballard, who was in South America opening a new mission; Elder B. H. Roberts of the First Council of Seventy and President of the Eastern States Mission; and Elder Rey L. Pratt of the First Council of Seventy now labouring with Elder Ballard in South America.

PRESIDENT GRANT'S opening address comprising statistics and

facts together with valuable admonition and counsel, will be published in full beginning with this issue of the *Millennial Star*.

PRESIDENT ANTHONY W. IVINS was the second speaker. In opening his remarks President Ivins quoted from the Apostle Peter with respect to organisation of the Church. He related how during the past ninety-six years the restored Gospel has been preached in both the Old and the New World without serious governmental opposition. Converts have gathered out from the northern European countries and have become pillars of the Church. For this reason, he said, it was somewhat surprising that opposition has been encountered by the missionaries in Norway. Inquiry revealed that a ban had been placed as a result of Christian sectaries declaring that "Mormonism" was not a Christian religion. Such statements made ninety-six years ago, said President Ivins, would have been looked upon with a great deal of charity, but after a lapse of almost a century the publication of such a statement can only be attributed to ignorance or a deliberate intention to falsify.

He affirmed that the man who heeds the teachings of Christ is like unto the man who built his house upon a rock. Latter-day Saints, he said, accept the Lord's words, believing that He is literally the Only Begotten Son of the Father, and that through Him is the only way to reach the throne of grace. This knowledge has not come to the Latter-day Saints by the voice of man, but through the Holy Ghost; this statement, he avouched, the congregation would rise and witness, if requested.

In closing, President Ivins reviewed the first vision of the Prophet Joseph Smith, the early organisation of the Church and the authority held by the Latter-day Saints to officiate in the name of God.

THE SECOND SESSION was marked by increased attendance and no whit of diminishing interest in the proceedings. Following the Easter theme, the resurrection of Christ and the significance of His mission to the former and Latter-day Saints formed the subjects of the several powerful discourses delivered.

PRESIDENT CHARLES W. NIBLEY in opening his address read from the twenty-fourth chapter of Luke the account of the resurrection. Over all the world, said President Nibley, wherever Christian people are found, the story is being told and retold. The Latter-day Saints believe every word of the account of the resurrection, he affirmed. We believe it literally; that the body of the Saviour was resurrected and became a glorified and sanctified body of flesh and bones. Not only do we have the evidence of these facts in the Bible, but we know that the same Jesus who was crucified appeared to the Prophet Joseph Smith and revealed the same doctrines and principles, and conferred like power and authority as He had given to the Church founded in the meridian of time.

Incident to this restoration we have the same necessary principles and ordinances to observe, and similar authority to preach and administer them. Corresponding principles of conduct are also set forth, namely: love, patience, integrity, sacrifice and all things, which, if lived, will make for the happiness and betterment of mankind.

In bearing his testimony to the divinity of Christ, President Nibley said he believes there is a sure way for any person to know the truth, and that is to ask in faith of God, who will reveal it as He did to Peter and as He has promised to do in both the Bible and Book of Mormon.

Elder Orson F. Whitney quoted the M. I. A. slogan, "We Stand for an Individual Testimony of the Divinity of Jesus Christ", and called attention to the fact that the great question involved was dividing the Christian world into two opposing militant camps—the Fundamentalists, who regard Jesus Christ as the very Son of God, the author of the resurrection, a worker of miracles; and the Modernists, who look upon Him merely as a good and wise teacher, the greatest ever known. Said the speaker:

"They who doubt the divinity of Jesus can not be expected to believe in the wonderful works wrought by Him. But they who accept Him as the Son of God can accept His miracles also, the problem resolving itself into a simple question of cause and effect."

In answer to the objection that miracles are contrary to the laws of nature, Elder Whitney cited Carlyle as showing that man's knowledge of nature's laws is too limited to constitute him a competent judge of such matters. He then continued: "It were indeed a pitiful begging of the question for anyone to say: 'Because I can not do a certain thing therefore it can not be done; I cannot work a miracle, consequently no miracle was ever wrought.' Miracles are the fruits of faith. Nobody claims that unbelief can perform them."

Taking up another topic, suggested by Carlyle's question, "Was man with his experience present at the creation?" Elder Whitney quoted from the Book of Job and the Book of Abraham, dealing with preexistence, and declared that by the sublimity of their teachings, and the Spirit accompanying them, such books bear unequivocal testimony to their own divine origin. He described the creation, firstly spiritual, secondly temporal; outlined the great purposes in view—the coming to earth of God's sons and daughters to obtain bodies and thus become souls capable of endless increase and advancement, also to undergo experience amidst mortal vicissitudes for their education and development; and then showed that, according to the teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, not only human beings, but the lower orders of animals were destined to eternal felicity. The speaker closed his address in these words:

"Yes, Carlyle, man was present at the creation—but not with his mortal experience, nor yet with his mortal blindness. With clear, unclouded vision we looked on while the foundations of the earth were laid. And it was because we could see past the gloom to the glory that lay beyond, that 'the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy.'"

The greatest of all miracles, said ELDER DAVID O. MCKAY, the Christian world is celebrating to-day in the world-wide festival of Easter. He read from the accounts in the Bible of the establishment of the Church, and demonstrated that no man reading these things could doubt that the literal rising of Christ from the tomb was the foundation of Christianity.

"This vast congregation," he said, "is assembled here to-day because of an added witness to the same fact, for we know that Jesus Christ appeared in modern times by the side of His Father, who said: 'This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!'"

ELDER JOSEPH FIELDING SMITH, the concluding speaker, discussed the doctrinal beliefs of the Latter-day Saints regarding the resurrection of Christ, showing that without the literal resurrection of the Saviour the entire conception of Christianity fails to conform to reason.

"Did the fall of Adam defeat the original plan of God?" he asked. Things have a spiritual and a physical creation, he said. The perfect condition is the union of the two. It was not intended that man should be shielded from sin and temptation. On the other hand, from the beginning the mortal existence and education of man in earth's estate was planned. Adam's fall was the necessary gate to mortality and death was the result. Christ's crucifixion and rising from the grave represent the "first fruits" of the resurrection, he affirmed. Bodies have been given to us that the spirit may develop in them. Death is overcome through the resurrection, and the last enemy of man to be destroyed will be death; then the spirit and the body will be inseparably united.

THE SEMI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE of the Deseret Sunday School Union was held during the evening of the first day of the conference, and will be long remembered for the inspiration and knowledge imparted. The theme "The Temple of Reverence" was pleasingly developed by addresses, songs and pictures. Introductory remarks relating to the theme were made by Elder Stephen L. Richards of the general superintendency. Such topics as "The Master Builder", "Reverence for the Home", "Respect for Law and Government", "Reverence for Houses of Worship", "Reverence for the Priesthood" and "Reverence for God" were delivered as potent messages by the speakers, who emerged clothed in robes of white from "The Temple of Reverence"—an impressive scene indeed.

Brief addresses were delivered by Presidents Grant, Ivins and

Nibley and Superintendent David O. McKay. President Grant called attention to the lessons taught in the program, and urged obedience to law and order, reverence for the home and respect for government. He rebuked those who do not show respect and reverence at religious gatherings, and urged that the lessons taught in the program be given practical application.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

THE WELSH CONFERENCE

THE SPRING CONFERENCE of the Welsh district was held in the Memorial Hall, Varteg, on Sunday, April 25th. President James E. Talmage, Sister May Booth Talmage, Elders J. Howard Cook and James K. Knudson from Mission headquarters at Liverpool, Conference President Peter J. Clarke and all of the Missionaries of the Welsh district were in attendance.

A well prepared program consisting of poems, readings and songs portraying the gradual unfoldment of the Gospel in these latter days was given in the first meeting by members of the Sunday Schools. Elder John E. Barker related the Parable of the Talents and asserted that no one of us is without some talent, which we should carefully and prayerfully develop. The Mission President commended those taking part on the program. He affirmed that this dispensation, like those preceding it, was inaugurated by a personal manifestation of God to man, and declared by word of Scripture that the Gospel thus restored will never again be taken from the earth.

The honourable release of Conference President Peter J. Clarke and the appointment of Elder Thomas Biggs as his successor was announced by President Talmage in the afternoon service. Elder John E. Barker was also honourably released. President Clarke presented a brief review of the conditions and work in the district. He testified that the Gospel of Christ has been restored after a period of apostasy, and urged all to accept and apply its principles and observe its ordinances. Elder Thomas Biggs related the story of how he was led to investigate and accept the Gospel in Wales several years ago, and told of incidents in his life that had strengthened his faith. By well drawn illustration Elder J. Howard Cook showed how the Church trains its members in character to become real men and women. President Talmage addressed the assembly on the subject "Fruits of Mormonism", and by effective argument comprising statistics combined with logical reasoning showed that by its results "Mormonism" has proved itself to be of God. He avouched that through living the Gospel the members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints live longer, are healthier and happier than other people.

Following this session the Mission President met with the local

Priesthood and urged these brethren to look after the affairs in the branches so that the Traveling Elders may be free to do their special work among non-members. Sister Talmage received reports from the Relief Society concerning the progress and condition of this organisation, and gave instruction and encouragement for the future.

In the concluding session Elder James K. Knudson declared that the members of the Church bear unwavering testimony to the divinity of the Saviour and are not affected by the growing tendency to turn to so-called modernism. Sister May Booth Talmage explained the purposes of the Relief Society and the Mutual Improvement Association, and said that the Church provides great opportunity for self-development and progress through the medium of its auxiliary organisations. Elder Evan Arthur rendered a vocal solo. The Mission President discoursed on the power of obedience, saying that obedience is as much a force in the world as the forces of heat or electricity or other forces about us. The Lord, he affirmed, is a personification of justice, and His judgments are based upon irrevocable laws. By rendering obedience we may claim blessings from on high. The speaker urged his hearers to accept the Gospel and comply with its saving ordinances while they may; for these are indeed the last days referred to in ancient and modern Scripture, and the coming of the Son of Man is nigh at hand.

The conference was one of the most inspirational held in Wales for many years and was marked especially from the standpoint of attendance, well over half of the number present being investigators. The fact of the meetings being held in a small country town instead of the usual centre, the large city, denotes that success awaits the missionaries in the fruitful country districts.

ARIEL G. EVANS, Conference Clerk

FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Arrivals and Assignments—The following Missionaries arrived in Liverpool, May 2nd, per s.s. *Metagama*, and have been thus assigned:

For the British Mission—Robert LeRoy Blamires, Kaysville, Utah, to the Hull Conference; Franklin J. Newman, Riverton, Utah, to the Leeds Conference; A. Vincen McKay, Ogden, Utah, to the Newcastle Conference; Clarence M. Bean, Rockport, Utah, to the Newcastle Conference.

For the German-Austrian Mission—Philip Tadje, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Doings in the Conferences: *Birmingham*—Sisters Edith and Ellen G. Dyson of the Handsworth Branch, who are emigrating to America, were tendered a farewell social on April 20th.

Hull—The traveling missionaries met in a report meeting on April 16th, at Beverley; ways and means were discussed whereby greater efficiency could be obtained in missionary work. The same evening a public meeting was held at Beverley; those in attendance manifested keen interest in the remarks of the speakers.

Leeds—A tracting expedition under the auspices of the Bradford M. I. A. was made to Cullingworth on April 24th; the entire village was tracted and invited to attend the successful street meeting that was held in the evening. Similar journeys are being planned for the future.

Liverpool—Through the established orders of baptism and the laying on of hands one more member was added to the Church in Liverpool on April 15th; Elder James K. Knudson and President James E. Talmage administered the ordinances.

Newcastle—A baptismal service was held at Saltburn, April 10th; the ordinance was administered by President James M. Armstrong to three persons; President Armstrong and Elders J. Earl Stuart and William Derbyshire administered the confirmations.

Welsh—The Traveling Elders met at Cardiff, April 24th; President James E. Talmage was in attendance and after hearing the reports of the brethren counseled them to seek new fields of labour particularly in the country places. Plans were discussed for the furtherance of the work in its several phases.

Branch Conferences—Of the Lancaster Branch, Liverpool Conference, on April 11th. President Virgil M. Groo and Elders Wilford L. Hansen, Seth W. Pixton, Z. Vernon Derrick and James K. Knudson took part in the proceedings.

Of the Shildon Branch, Newcastle Conference, on April 11th. "The Life of Christ" was the theme of the Sunday School session. Elders Gordon P. Owen, Alfred E. Randall and Vard W. Meadows delivered gospel discourses.

Of the Handsworth Branch, Birmingham Conference, on April 11th. "Fasting and Prayer" was treated in program form in the Sunday School meeting. The speakers were President Milton England and Elders Cleston H. Rigby, Rulon L. Russon, Fred R. Flinders, Charles C. Edwards and John M. Joseph.

Of the South Shields Branch, Newcastle Conference, on April 4th. "The Life of Christ" was the theme of the Sunday School session. Elder Gordon P. Owen and Brothers Thomas R. Mann and Albert Hurrell took part in the proceedings.

Of the Pontypool Branch, Welsh Conference, on April 4th. An interesting program portraying the resurrection was presented by members of the Sunday School. President Peter J. Clarke and Elders John E. Barker, Evan Arthur, Thomas Biggs and Richard C. Thomas spoke.

Of the Cheltenham Branch, Bristol Conference, on April 11th. President LeRoy E. Peterson and Elder Carl E. Brown were the speakers.

Of the Cardiff Branch, Welsh Conference, on April 11th. President Peter J. Clarke and Elders Evan Arthur and Ariel G. Evans addressed the assembly on the principles of the Gospel.

Of the Nottingham Branch, Nottingham Conference, on April 18th. Members of the Sunday School treated the theme "Obedience." President Reed Moss and Elders Orson H. Pratt and George S. Wright discussed gospel subjects.

Of the Rochdale Branch, Manchester Conference, on April 18th. President Alvarus H. Parry and Elders Kenneth D. Singleton, Landell S. Merrill and Eugene R. Budge took part in the proceedings.

Of the Bristol Branch, Bristol Conference, on April 18th. "The Resurrection" was the theme presented by the members of the Sunday School. Gospel discourses were delivered by President LeRoy E. Peterson, Elder Carl E. Brown and Brother Henry E. Neal.

A MOTHER'S REWARD

AYE, count if you can your mother's tears,
As you carelessly mounted the upward years
Till you reached the summit the world calls man;
Now place in the balance and weigh, if you can,

Her sorrows, her prayers; the anguished pain
She so willingly bore again and again,
To give you a place in God's wondrous plan,
Then count the cost of a life of a man.

Now, gather them all as she smiles through her tears,
So calmly descending the downward years;
And weigh them against the joy she has won,
That she gave to the race so goodly a son.

RUTH MAY FOX

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